

gay COMMUNITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 4-10, 1991
VOLUME 18
NO 28

BIPAD: 65498
\$1.25

FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Peace activists flock to D.C.

'Stop the bombing, stop the war, from Baghdad to El Salvador.' Lesbians and gay men are among the tens of thousands of anti-war demonstrators who gather in Washington

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON—For the second Saturday in a row, tens of thousands of people, including many lesbians and gay men, converged on the nation's capital Jan. 26 to protest against the Persian Gulf war.

Police estimated that 75,000 people gathered on the Mall near the U.S. Capitol and closed Pennsylvania Avenue for over three hours on their way to the White House. Organizers counted more than a quarter of a million people. By either count, it was the largest mobilization here since U.S. troops were sent to Saudi Arabia.

Marchers passed by numbers of guards posted outside government buildings, more security than had ever been seen during Viet Nam war protests or other times of international tension. The President, away at his Camp David, Md., retreat, missed the protesters' chants of "Hell no, we won't go! We won't die for Texaco!" and "Stop the bombing, Stop the war, From Baghdad to El Salvador."

"Today's massive outpouring indicates the breadth and strength of this movement," said rally coordinator and lesbian activist Leslie Cagan. "People from all walks of life are actively involved in a wide range of activities," she said, "from lobbying, letter-writing, teach-ins, marches, rallies, to non-violent civil disobedience."

Cagan, coordinator of the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, said the growing network "urges all Americans to do whatever they can to help bring this war to a speedy end." The Campaign has condemned Hussein's attack on Kuwait and okayed sanctions, except for food and medical supplies. It has also issued a call for two days of local actions in mid-February.

More than 370 groups endorsed the action, including ACT UP chapters in Long Island and Manhattan; the San Francisco Bay Area's Children of War and Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights; the Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance; D.C.'s Oppression Under Target! (OUT!); the Pittsburgh Committee for a Comprehensive Peace; and the War Resisters League.

During the rally at the White House, speakers questioned the Bush administration about invasions of Grenada and Panama, support of "death squads" in Central America, and actions in Honduras and Nicaragua.

"We're not supporting democracy with this war," said Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW). "It's time we look to what we are doing before we start condemning others."

Rainbow Coalition leader and Washington, D.C.'s shadow senator, Jesse Jackson, noted that only four of his colleagues in Congress have children on active war duty. "All bombing and no talk will leave us brain dead," he warned, "and lead us to spiritual surrender and moral collapse." Martin Hiraga, an OUT! activist, translated Jackson's talk into sign language.

"With the present war there is nothing ahead of us except repression here and abroad, particularly for Arab-Americans and people of color," Miraga said in an interview.

"There can be no excuse for the fact that prior to the war, queers were being kicked out of the Army, but now that it's time to die, they're being sent to war," he said, in reference to the 14 or more gay and lesbian reservists cleared for Persian Gulf duty despite Pentagon policy banning homosexuals from service. The out-of-the closet soldiers, who sought the assignments, have been told they will be discharged upon returning home.

Jackson, calling for "a sense of history, not hysteria," quoted Kennedy, King, Lennon and the Bible. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, will leave us blind, ugly, disfigured and dead," he said. "There must be another way. If ancient enemies can sit together in South Africa, surely Iraqis and Kuwaitis, Palestinians and Israelis, and Saudis can."

Speakers lashed out at Bush for giving Saddam Hussein farm credits, friendship, weapons and other high-tech advantages before the war. "Bush knew that the 1985 shipment of [a] rare fever virus from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control ended up in Iraq as part of its biological warfare program," charged openly gay Boston City Council member David Sondras.

"Even the boots on the feet of Iraqi soldiers came from a company owned by [Richard] Nixon and [Spiro] Agnew.... [Bush] created Hussein," said Sondras. "We should send [Bush] to fight him, and bring our children home."

Greenpeace U.S.A. head Peter Behouth said he found it encouraging that even during war, people care about the environment. "We have to turn that concern for the planet into an unqualified opposition to this war," he said. "As thousands died in the Gulf, America was treated to a TV parade of generals happy to be armchair quarterbacks."

"But yesterday [on Jan. 25], we saw another image of what war looks like—the largest oil spill in history, larger and more devastating than [the] Exxon Valdez," in Alaska, said Behouth.

"It is ironic that it might take [the spill] to give us a recognizable image of war," he said. "But for Americans, understanding an oil spill is a lot easier than understanding a missile attack or bombing mission."

"The whole world is watching," said film actor Tim Robbins, adapting a chant from the 1968 Democratic Convention when Chicago storm-trooper police attacked protesters. "And they're pissed off."

In a stirring prelude to what may be his next presidential campaign, Jackson attacked Bush for his Civil Rights Act veto and demanded affordable housing, education, and health care. America, he said, must not abandon the wars on poverty, drugs, and other ills that rage while the thousand points of volunteers' light Bush promised to illuminate the crises "are without batteries."

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JOIN THE
QUEENS

NOT THE
MARINES

Washington D.C. Jan. 26

ELLEN SHUB

Aspirin may be effective as tool in HIV therapy

Some studies have shown that small doses of aspirin can lead to increased T-cell counts. Activists push for further study.

By Chris Nealon

LOS ANGELES—More than two years after related information first appeared in a medical journal, a lesbian-gay political organization here reported recently that aspirin may be an effective tool in HIV therapy. According to the Gay and Lesbian Political Action Committee (GALAPAC), some HIV-positive people in the Los Angeles area have reported surprising short-term increases in their T-cell counts while taking low doses of aspirin over a period of several months.

The information about aspirin and the immune system first appeared in the Jan. 1989 issue of *The Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*. According to a non-HIV-related study published in that issue, volunteers taking one aspirin every other day showed two- and three-fold increases, respectively, in amounts of the substances interleukin and interferon in their blood.

Interleukin and interferon are elements of the human immune system. Although the two substances are not directly related to T-cell level, GALAPAC reported that HIV-positive people took the study's results to mean that aspirin might have a helpful effect on the immune system in general.

Activists expressed anger that the medical establishment did not pursue aspirin therapy after the New York study first appeared. However, they said that at present they are primarily focused on setting up a scientific study of aspirin's benefits as soon as possible. At least one community-based drug trial group, Los Angeles's Search Alliance, is planning aspirin test trials in response to the information. Observers say that if trials confirm early reports, aspirin may become the preferred drug for HIV therapy in combination with other, anti-viral drugs.

GALAPAC published its account of early successes with aspirin therapy after Howard Armistead, the organization's executive director, reported sharp improvements in his T-cell count during a self-initiated aspirin regimen. Armistead saw mention of the New

York study in the Aug. 17, 1990, issue of *AIDS Treatment News (ATN)*. Although the ATN article did not draw any conclusions about HIV and aspirin, Armistead said, he decided to try it.

I was stunned'

Armistead began his aspirin therapy in late August, simply taking one pill every day. In an attempt to isolate the possible effects of the drug, he changed no other aspect of his diet or his daily routine. After two months, his T-cell count rose from 556 to 895, a significant increase.

"I was stunned," Armistead told *GCN*. Even after he got his test results, he added, "I had to take a day to think about the cause for the increase." Before his T-cell count increased so sharply, said Armistead, "I [had] thought, 'Big deal, I'm taking an aspirin a day.'" Afterwards, however, "I thought, 'I had no idea it had these properties,'" he said.

In response to the success of his therapy, added Armistead, GALAPAC is currently trying to gather public support for a further examination of aspirin and HIV. He remarked that despite his excitement about the possibilities of aspirin therapy, several basic questions remain. Among these, he said, are whether aspirin will help HIV-positive people with much lower T-cell counts, and whether the effects of aspirin will last. He also said that there is no way to predict what other factors might inhibit the immune system's response to aspirin.

Nonetheless, Armistead said, the draw of a potentially effective new therapy is a powerful one. Regardless of how little data is currently available about aspirin and the immune system, he said, "All my friends who are HIV-positive have started using it."

The 'affordable' therapy'

Armistead also said he imagines broader implications for treatment of HIV if aspirin turns out to be an effective component of

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Quote of the week

"The quality of American technology, thanks to the American worker, has enabled us to successfully deal with difficult military conditions, and help minimize the precious loss of lives."

—George Bush, misspeaking on the air during his Jan. 29 State of the Union address. It is assumed that the President meant "the loss of precious lives."

Lesbian legislator comes out in Oregon

SALEM, Ore.—Oregon's newest state legislator gave the lesbian and gay community a pleasant surprise last month when, a few minutes after being sworn in, she announced that she is a lesbian. Shortly after her Jan. 16 swearing-in ceremony, Gail Shibley held a news conference in which she said, "To my sisters and brothers in Oregon's lesbian and gay community, I, as a lesbian, would like to say, 'It's nice to be here.'"

According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Shibley was selected by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to fill a seat vacated by the incoming secretary of state. Shibley received three of the Board's five votes.

"I simply thought it was an appropriate thing to do," said Shibley of her coming out. "I wish it wasn't news. I wish this were an everyday kind of thing."

Shibley said she imagined that the Board of Commissioners who chose her knew that she is a lesbian, because her file lists her affiliations with lesbian organizations. She said she wanted to publicly announce her sexual orientation immediately after being sworn in, however, in order to get right to work in her new job. "One reason I wanted to bring it out was so that it would dispel any kinds of whispers or rumors...and leave me just to focus on issues of concern in my district," she said.

—Chris Nealon

Fighting harassment in Dallas

DALLAS—The lesbian and gay community here was up in arms last month, organizing around the issue of police harassment. In addition to denouncing the arrest of a gay pastor as an example of harassment, activists pressured police into releasing him, and voiced outrage at police behavior at a city council meeting.

Rev. Mike Piazza, pastor at Dallas' Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), was charged Jan. 6 with interfering with the duties of a public servant. Piazza was arrested after officers followed a car into the MCC parking lot to ticket the driver, whose license tag had expired the week before. The pastor remained in police custody for a few hours, during which time about 100 activists and MCC members gathered at the station.

According to the *Dallas Voice*, a lesbian and gay newspaper, Piazza said he was ordered to go back inside when he approached the officers in the parking lot. He added that he was persistent in asking them what was wrong because the two officers were "so angry and belligerent" from the outset.

"[I] put my hand on [one officer's] arm, telling her to calm down and that I was just asking what the problem was," said Piazza. "Then she pushed me backwards and yelled, 'Don't touch me.' I told her not to manhandle me, either." Shortly thereafter, he said, "They put the handcuffs on me and put me in the back of the police car."

In response to the incident, local activists turned out in force at a Jan. 9 Dallas City Council meeting, decrying Piazza's arrest and calling for sensitivity training for police officers. Piazza, who has filed a complaint with the department, still faces misdemeanor charges.

A mix of lesbian and gay activists and conservative citizens attended the meeting, which threatened at moments to turn into a debate about the morality of homosexuality. In response to an objection that the Bible says that homosexuality is a sin, however, council member Diane Ragsdale said, "I don't think God would support police misconduct, and that is the issue here."

—Chris Nealon

Planned Parenthood flinches over safe sex poster

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's much-beleaguered new safer sex poster has caused another stir, this time at Planned Parenthood. The sexual

counseling center's San Francisco branch recently decided to remove the poster from its offices, sparking an inquiry from local reporters. The poster, which has met with resistance since it was first unveiled in the summer, features two bare-chested young men wrapped loosely in an American flag under the text, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." One of the men is holding a condom.

After contacting Planned Parenthood offices, the *Bay Area Reporter*'s Dave Gilden learned that the fuss over the poster had been settled by moving it to a different part of the office. According to the newspaper, Planned Parenthood's Amy Weitz said initially the poster had been placed in such a way that, "It looked like just two naked bodies. You couldn't see the condom."

Gilden pointed out, however, that the condom is all but centered in the photo. "There's no way it could be blocked without blocking the cutie pies from view, too," Gilden wrote. "You can't fool me."

—Chris Nealon

Jewish teach-in on the Gulf War

BOSTON—Progressive Jewish responses to the war in the Persian Gulf will be the central focus of a conference of liberal and progressive Jews to be sponsored by *TIKKUN* magazine, Feb. 9 and 10.

The conference will provide an opportunity for Jews who have traditionally opposed U.S. military intervention and who have supported a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to explore their views and discuss strategies for action involving the present crisis. Anti-Semitism on the left and in mainstream American society and Israel-bashing will also be topics of discussion.

The conference will feature a range of speakers, among them Noam Chomsky, Alan Dershowitz and Holly Sklar. Two workshops of particular interest to the lesbian and gay community are "Gay Jewish Men discuss the AIDS Crisis," with Abe Rybeck of the United Fruit Company, Peter Atlas of ACT UP, Matthew Stern of Northern Lights, and others; and "Jewish Feminist Response to Conflict in the Middle East," with Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, writer/activist and co-editor of *The Tribe of Dina*, Sue Dorfman, who recently returned from a women's tour of Israel and the occupied territories, and others.

Marge Piercy and others will read poetry and prose Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. (admission \$10). The conference proper will run from 9:30-3:30, Feb. 10 (registration \$45); it will be held at Boston University Hillel, 233 Bay State Rd., Boston. For more information, call 353-3633.

—Donna Spiegelman

Sisterhood is powerful

ALBANY, N.Y.—At her oath of office ceremony, New York's first out lesbian legislator let her constituents know that some assembly traditions did not sit well with her. Rather than follow custom and place her left hand on a bible, Assembly member Deborah Glick chose to take the oath with her hand on a copy of the feminist anthology *Sisterhood is Powerful*.

According to the *Washington Blade*, Glick, a Democrat, represents Greenwich Village and lower Manhattan in the state assembly. She was elected with 78 percent of her district's votes.

The *New York Times* reported that Glick plans to dedicate much of her time in the legislature to AIDS financing, domestic partnership, and hate crimes issues.

—Elizabeth Yukins

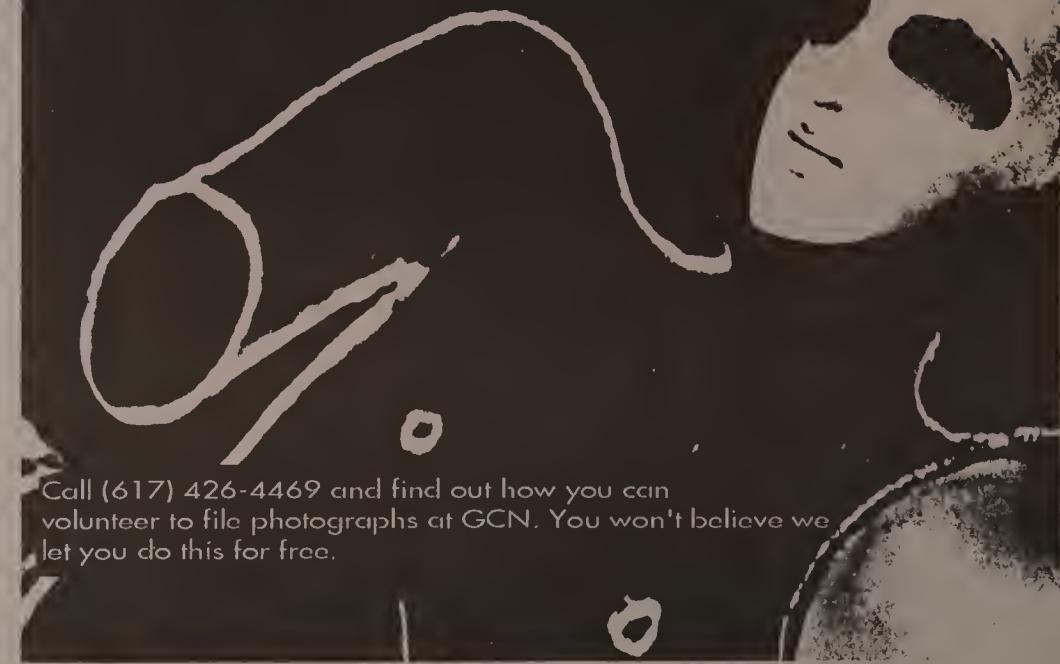
Canada passes pro-gay ordinance

ONTARIO—On Jan. 1, the government here extended life, medical and dental insurance to the lovers of lesbian and gay provincial employees. According to Outlines News Service, this is Canada's first such ordinance.

Government officials also said that they plan to expand provincial laws and the Ontario Human Rights Act to include lesbian and gay partners in the legal definition of family. This legislative change would extend insurance benefits to members of the civil sector. Officials predict that approximately two percent of the province's 68,000 employees will utilize the government's new benefit program.

—Elizabeth Yukins

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Needle exchange heatedly debated in Boston

Residents and community activists protest the opening of a needle exchange storefront in a Boston neighborhood

By Elizabeth Yukins

BOSTON—At a time when drug use and the rate of HIV infection are on the rise, a local neighborhood and many of the city's drug treatment and AIDS advocacy organizations have become involved in a debate about the recent opening of a clean needle exchange storefront. Community residents, church leaders, city officials, health care workers, and former drug users have joined together to protest the needle exchange program and its founder, Jon Parker. Parker, who has his own supporters, says he is committed to the success of his storefront campaign.

Jon Parker's efforts to stop the transmission of HIV among intravenous (IV) drug users began four years ago when he founded the National AIDS Brigade. Since 1986, Parker has been swapping dirty hypodermic needles for clean ones in nine states. Brigade workers have conducted their needle exchanges out of the back of a van, giving out an estimated 50,000 clean needles.

Early in January, the National AIDS Brigade announced it was establishing a permanent needle exchange site in the Mission Hill neighborhood in Boston.

The controversy about the Brigade's storefront stems both from differing health care ideologies and conflicting personalities. Some people say that Parker's abrasive and egotistical personality has caused the entire problem, while others point to differing views on the efficacy and correctness of clean needle exchange.

"I don't want to dedicate myself to giving out needles all my life, but this is something I've volunteered to do because I've seen people contract AIDS and die because of dirty needles," said Joe McGrath, spokesperson for the National AIDS Brigade.

"On a scale of one to 10 in terms of public health threats, with 10 being the worst, AIDS is a 10 and drug addiction is a three," McGrath told *GCN*. "If you're an addict, you can recover. If you're an AIDS victim, chances of recovery are extremely limited. With needle exchange, we stop AIDS by offering one more instrument of battle against it."

Shut it down

Many drug treatment activists and former drug users disagree with the philosophy behind needle exchange. One group of health care organizations—the Treatment on Demand Coalition—opposes Parker's program and has recently held public demonstrations against the Brigade. The Coalition has been joined by Mission Hill community residents, who are angry that the Brigade did not consult with them before opening up a permanent needle exchange site in their neighborhood. Together, these groups have demanded the closure of the Brigade's storefront operation.

"The storefront should close down because it is not helping any of us meet our goals," said Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler, a member of the Treatment on Demand coalition. He told *GCN* that, "The National AIDS Brigade, under the direction of Parker, is a mockery of needle exchange discussion, a mockery of treatment discussion, and a mockery of how one gets a community to work together."

Ellis-Hagler said that he was particularly opposed to the Brigade because he doesn't believe that the needle exchange program is doing anything to further AIDS information or treatment education. Ellis-Hagler said that, in order to evaluate the storefront operation, his group "sent [in] an undercover guy." He said, "He went into the storefront without any needles on him, and the people in there gave him needles without ascertaining if he was in fact a drug user and without telling him anything about AIDS or treatment programs."

When asked about Ellis-Hagler's accusations, McGrath said that it was possible that someone may have come in and been given a needle. He explained that the Brigade "recognize[s] how an addict might not want to carry a needle with him around here right now, and we give treatment information if asked." According to McGrath, "The Brigade attempts to get addicts involved in acts of self-determination even if it's on the small level of trading a dirty needle in for a clean one."

He added, "We give needles to empower the addicts and we encourage them to return to the program again."

'An ego thing'

Ellis-Hagler said that it is more the aggressive and insensitive tactics of Parker than the issue of needle exchange that has alienated the Mission Hill community. He cited the recent building of an AIDS hospice in Mission Hill as an example of neighborhood support for community initiatives.

David Sondras, the Boston city councilor who represents Mission Hill, agreed with Ellis-Hagler's view of the AIDS Brigade debate. He told *GCN* that "Mission Hill residents are not against social programs, [but] Parker so badly mishandled the situation with the community that he has created a nearly unanimous opposition to him." Sondras said that he believes that the local AIDS Brigade board has "to get rid of Jon Parker and Joe McGrath, and let the place cool down for a while."

Sondras added, "I will do anything to reduce the transfer of AIDS in this city, but I don't think a building with a big neon light flashing 'Addicts come here' and a police car parked outside will be of service to either the AIDS problem or the drug addicts."

Will Murphy, a member of the local AIDS Brigade board, agrees that Parker and McGrath must be removed from the organization. "Jon Parker has been irresponsible, has shown a lack of good judgment, and has impeded progress," he told *GCN*. Murphy, who was hired by the AIDS Brigade in late 1990, said he believes that Parker is the cause for much of the community's opposition to the needle exchange program.

According to Murphy, Mission Hill residents were upset when the Brigade announced its storefront program. In an effort to ease community tensions, three members of the Brigade's board met with representatives of the Treatment on Demand Coalition and the Mission Hill Neighborhood Association. At the meeting, the groups negotiated an agreement that put a hold on needle distribution, but allowed the Brigade to host its planned opening on Jan. 24.

When Parker, who was out of town during the meeting, found out there had been a compromise, he reportedly became angered and said he would continue to do needle exchange from within the building.

Murphy said that since he decided to act unilaterally, Parker has attempted to disband the local board and establish himself and McGrath as the sole members of the National AIDS Brigade. According to Murphy, Parker and McGrath are the only workers now staffing the storefront, and Parker refuses to negotiate with the community opposition. Parker did not return a series of phone calls by *GCN*.

"Jon has taken an 'all or nothing approach,' and he wants to go down in a blaze of glory," Murphy said. "He has completely internalized the conflict, and this is what makes me the most angry. The issue has become an ego thing: a conflict of Jon Parker versus the rest of the world."

On Jan. 31, Murphy and other AIDS Brigade members announced that Parker and McGrath had been removed from the organization's local board. Neil Sullivan, Boston Mayor Ray Flynn's chief policy advisor, told *GCN* that he does not believe that this action is enough to quiet community dissent.

"The AIDS Brigade board is trying to save itself by separating from Jon Parker," said Sullivan, "but a raw nerve has been touched on Mission Hill, and the people want none of it anymore." According to Sullivan, one hour after the local board announced the removal of Parker, approximately 300 people gathered outside the Brigade storefront demanding it be shut down.

When asked if all the publicity has been beneficial in any way, Sullivan responded, "There is no question that the initial controversy raised the issue [of needle exchange] in a potentially constructive way, but it has gone way too far. The debate has so far alienated the community that people not only oppose Parker, but now oppose the issue of needle exchange itself."

Like Sondras, Sullivan said he believes that "a shut down of the storefront is the only way a coalition can later come out of this with a potential to get something done."

Despite the large opposition he faces, Parker still has many supporters in the

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Peace activists rally against the war, Jan. 26

Anti-war protesters push for mainstream coverage

One study reports that of almost 3000 minutes of war coverage, less than half an hour featured peace activists



A picture you won't see in the New York Times--Jan. 26

By Chris Nealon

NEW YORK—Charging that mainstream media coverage of the Persian Gulf crisis has been heavily biased in favor of the war, progressive groups in the northeastern U.S. began to take action last week. In New York, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) staged a Jan. 30 demonstration in which over 1000 protesters marched past the offices of the major television networks; in Boston, an ad hoc organization of workers in alternative news media gathered to plan strategies for confronting mainstream outlets.

"[Anti-war] events are getting very little coverage," said Bonnie Garvin, a member of the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. For instance, Garvin told *GCN*, after the Jan. 26 anti-war march on Washington, "CBS did a five-second sequence with an overhead shot; and NBC said, 'An anti-war demonstration today drew about 75,000 people, which was about what organizers were expecting.'" The *New York Times*, meanwhile, was "very dismissive" of the march. The effect of such limited or hostile coverage, Garvin said, is that "there's tremendous censorship going on in this country. People are not getting the truth."

Aside from the two marches on Washington in January, both of which attracted crowds in the tens of thousands, major demonstrations continue to take place in New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle. Progressive observers say they also receive regular reports of anti-war activity in other, smaller locations around the U.S.

FAIR's Dennis Perrin agreed with Garvin that mainstream media have been neglecting anti-war activity. "There's been a total marginalization and dismissal of anti-war activity," he said. Perrin told *GCN* that most network coverage of opposition actions has been on the order of "30-second spots showing flags burning and chanting demonstrators." Furthermore, said Perrin, "The networks are not allowing dissident leaders time to represent their position." He added that the television blackout of opposition viewpoints is especially frustrating because "it's a television war."

In a recent study, FAIR examined war-related television coverage for five months, from the first commitment of U.S. troops on

Aug. 8, 1990, to Jan. 3, 1991. The media watch organization found that of 2,855 minutes of TV time devoted to the crisis, only 29 minutes focused on popular opposition to the military action. ABC, for instance, spent seven minutes covering anti-war activity in the five-month period of the study.

The FAIR piece also noted that no foreign policy experts associated with the peace movement were given access to national television. Although Jesse Jackson's trip to Iraq was counted as anti-war coverage, for instance, Jackson himself was not quoted in any of the stories about his trip.

Actually, FAIR's Perrin said, the network that has devoted the most time to opposition opinions has been MTV. "Really," he said, "MTV's been very pro-peace. Of course, it's not the same level of seriousness — mostly rock stars talking about the war — but you take what you can get."

Anger at mainstream coverage of anti-war activity has taken a slightly different form in Boston, where people working in progressive video, print, and radio formats have been meeting to establish alternative media approaches to the war. Ellen Herman, a representative of the as-yet-unnamed organization, told *GCN* that "what seemed to emerge after our most recent meeting was two groups." One group, called Press the Press, will work to force mainstream media outlets to offer more balanced coverage of war-related issues. The other, called Spread the Truth, plans to pursue an independent information campaign about the war without relying on the major outlets.

The task facing Press the Press, Herman said, will be "to figure out how best to generate support and commitment so that when we sit down with the editorial board of some TV station, we have the credibility to back us up." Herman also said that the group is working on finding a Boston-area outlet for Pacifica News, a progressive radio service based in Berkeley, Calif.

Meanwhile, said Herman, Spread the Truth activity will make use of members' "artistic skills," and its strategies will most likely include "factoid" campaigns like ACT UP does. (The AIDS activist group is known for its street-level graphic art featuring

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COMMUNITY VOICES

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All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily -- please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

Denying of selves

Dear GCN:

This is to ask GCN readers and staff to help the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association with an important project. Library users over the years have been saddened to discover that gay and lesbian magazines are EXCLUDED from most periodical indexes. If you look in the H.W. Wilson Company's *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, for example, you will not find reference to a single article from any gay or lesbian publication. You will find a few citations of articles by and about gays and lesbians, but only articles published in the mainstream het press. By denying library users conventional access to the gay/lesbian press, the H.W. Wilson Company marginalizes our lives and history which acts to reinforce ignorance and homophobia. The time has come to change this.

For the past 20 years only one index, *The Alternative Press Index*, has included a significant number of gay/lesbian press titles (currently eight) in their service. Since June, gay and lesbian librarians have convinced two of the mainstream indexing companies, Gale Research Inc. and The Information Access Company, to include gay and lesbian periodicals in their indexes. Gale's *Book Review Index* now includes citations to *Lambda Book Report*, *Out/Look*, and *The Advocate*. The Information Success Company chose to add *The Advocate*, *Christopher Street* to their titles covered by *InfoTrac*, *Magazine Index*, and *Academic Index*.

Write or call the H.W. Wilson Company! Tell them to put an end to their homophobia by including gay and lesbian press titles in *The Reader's Guide* and other indexes. Tell them to index a range of periodicals that represent a diversity of views and voices from gay and lesbian communities, for example, *The Advocate*, *Bay Area Reporter*, *BlackOut*, *BLK*, *Gay Community News*, *The Lesbian News*, *On Our Backs*, *Out/Look*, *OutWeek*, *The Washington Blade*, *Windy City Times* and others. Help stop ignorance about lesbian and gay lives, histories, and politics!

Zap!
Leo Weins, President
H.W. Wilson Company
950 University Ave.
Bronx NY 10452
phone: 212/588-8400 ext. 2206

Sincerely,
Polly Thistlewaite Member, ALA Gay and
Lesbian Task Force
New York, N.Y.

Cancel HBO

Dear GCN:

Sam Kinison's October appearance at the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles is scheduled to be broadcast on HBO sometime in 1991. Kinison's act contained the incendiary sexist and homophobic material he is known for.

Mr. Kinison's performances stir up bigotry and help to create a social atmosphere conducive to violent hate-crimes. Although he has recently said he will not tell AIDS-phobic jokes anymore, he has NOT renounced his other anti-gay material or his incredibly demeaning sexist material.

Responding to protests from gays and lesbians, Mr. Kinison recently said he was perplexed that he would be "accused of bad taste by a bunch of guys who lick the shit out of other guy's asses." This was reported by GLAAD. Remarks like this can lead gay and lesbian teenagers to commit suicide.

Various groups, including ACT UP, have been protesting Mr. Kinison's concerts for some time, but his career is still going strong. It's time to try a new tack. We need a national, focused action to stop this man.

Queer Nation/Seattle is calling a national boycott of HBO.

Hate-crimes are on the rise. Our queer sisters and brothers are being harassed and beaten all across this country. As long as HBO continues to provide a forum for hatred and bigotry, it is not conscionable for reasonable, decent people to support HBO. We cannot endanger our lives and the lives of those we love.

Will you join with us in this national action against HBO? If enough people start calling up HBO and cancelling their subscriptions, maybe HBO will see the light and cancel the Kinison broadcast. And even if that doesn't happen, the cancel-campaign will heighten public awareness of the hate-crime epidemic.

If you decide to participate in the boycott, contact us and we will send materials (of course you're invited to create original materials as well). Fax: 206-324-8919. We have information sheets plus fillers and bright-colored car-window placards that say:

Kinison is killing us. Cancel HBO.
If you do not wish to participate in publicizing the campaign, but are willing to endorse it, please inform us in that case also.

Best wishes from Seattle.
Jonathan Darci
Queer Nation/Seattle
Seattle, Wash.

Reconsider the Center's invitation

Dear GCN:

Dennis Esposito's most recent attack on the management of The Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men, Inc. [the "Center"] begs to be addressed.

A psychologist friend of mine insists that past behavior is a good indication of future behavior. On November 17, 1987, Mr. Esposito was unceremoniously removed from the presidency of the Center for playing "fast and loose" with the truth. The vote was 6-1 (Mr. Esposito being the 1). In last week's

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

The GCN Collective in alphabetical order by primary title/function (* indicates member of paid staff collective):

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Read Weaver

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Gay Community News is published weekly (except for the last week of April, August and December), by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Our office is located at 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-4469, (617) 426-2723 (FAX), (617) 426-0332 (TTY/TDD). Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate for individuals is \$39. Institutional rate: \$55. ISSN: [0147-0728].

Member Gay and Lesbian Press Association, New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMOPOLIS. GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 33109, Baltimore, MD 21218. Volumes 1-15 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$40/volume, \$550/complete set. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Gay Community News, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

- 1 year (49 issues) \$39
- 1 year, institutional \$55
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GCN letter to the editor, past performance was repeated. Mr. Esposito states that there was a \$25,000 donation made by Larry Basile to the Center in 1988. 1988 Board Members Harriet Lazarus and Eric Kristensen firmly maintain no such donation was received. This is absolute fabrication and such a donation simply does not exist in 1988 or any other year (1987-1991). John Graves was elected President of the Center when Mr. Esposito was removed. Mr. Graves then became Treasurer until his recent resignation as a result of relocating to Florida. To quote Mr. Graves, Mr. Esposito's claim of a \$25,000 donation is "absolute rubbish."

In 1989, Mr. Basile did sign as a guarantor on the Center's lease. Without a guarantor on the lease, the Center might not have opened. He has been and hopefully continues to be one of our strongest allies. Mr. Basile has also made financial contributions to the Center and it is up to him to indicate the exact amount if he so desires.

Moreover, we would like to thank GCN, Laura Briggs and the community for their support. Response to the recent GCN article has been most gratifying. We are pleased to report that the current deficit is a manageable \$12,000 and a solid fundraising plan is being implemented.

Mr. Esposito seems to believe the "rank and file" in our community should bear 100 percent of the cost of the Center. The "rank and file" pay what they can. The balance must be met by those who are in the fortunate position to do so. Historically, every public charity relies on tax deductible donations from generous people to survive. The Center is no different.

The Center is used on a regular basis by students, gay and lesbian business owners, athletes, musicians, political groups, medical experts, therapists, gay fathers, AIDS/HIV groups, transvestites, battered women's support groups, narcotic anonymous, lawyers, bisexual networks, youth organizations, alcoholics anonymous, speakers bureau, writers, lecturers, etc. Our "rank and file" is truly diverse.

Some "rank and file" folks do not even make enough money to pay and/or file taxes. Moreover, many members of our community are simply not in a financial position to make cash donations. Following Mr. Esposito's way of thinking, if some "rank and file" members cannot pay for their share for the Center, are they then "removed" from our community and only those able to pay may remain in our community and use the Center? We think not!

Volunteer energies are invaluable and we have been blessed with wonderful, competent volunteers. These volunteers are the backbone of the Center. However, when it comes to keeping the lights on, only cold, hard cash will do. On two previous occasions, I have personally extended a written invitation for Mr. Esposito to discuss matters at the Center. He chooses, instead, to address his "fast and loose" view of reality with GCN's readers. While addressing issues in a public forum is one of the basic guarantees in our Constitution, it is most important to do so fairly and factually.

We encourage Mr. Esposito to reconsider my several invitations to him. Let us sit down and address his concerns prior to a lambasting in the gay press based on the wrong information:

Carol P. Wessling
President
The Center
338 Newbury St.
Boston MA 02115

Keeping women in focus

Dear GCN:

Your January 7th piece on the December "First National Women and HIV Conference" in Washington, D.C., while certainly informative and encompassing, neglected to acknowledge Boston's history of national Women and AIDS events held over the last few years. The D.C. event's title was, in a sense, a misnomer. The Fenway Community Health Center has sponsored two Women and AIDS conferences since 1986, both of which have had participants from across the country. Planning is now well under way for Fenway's third Women and AIDS conference, to be held April 19-21 at the Westin Hotel in Boston. We expect 1000 participants from across the country to attend what promises to be the largest community-based Women and AIDS event ever held. FCHC is co-sponsoring the conference and a women's health fair with the Boston AIDS Consortium, and is working with a planning committee of individuals and representatives from agencies throughout the Boston area to plan

Why our future is in the GOP

By David LaFontaine and Patrick Ward

Why do gay civil rights bills face legislative battles as arduous as the 17-year struggle that ended successfully only in 1989 in Massachusetts? Why has the National Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill failed to move onto the floor for even a roll call? And why are only a fraction of lesbian and gay people actively involved in the struggle for our rights?

We believe that the fault lies in the rigidly Democratic identification of gay activists, who both refuse to recognize that gay men and lesbians are not necessarily of one mind on such issues as taxation, choice, and foreign policy, and persistently fail to muster the bi-partisan support necessary to pass legislation. By enforcing left-wing litmus tests of political acceptability, gay leadership has cut itself off from many of the people it presumes to represent, and, through the absence of a gay presence in the GOP, allowed the political careers of homophobes like Jesse Helms to flourish.

This past year, the governor's race in Massachusetts caught the attention of the nation. The dead-heat contest between Democrat John Silber and Republican William Weld vividly illustrated the danger of adhering to the stereotypes of each party. This time it was the Democrat who publicly compared homosexuality to bestiality and vowed to reinstate an anti-gay foster-care policy (authored, incidentally, by former Democratic Governor Michael Dukakis). Silber contrasted starkly with pro-gay, pro-choice Bill Weld, who promised to veto foster-care restrictions and appoint lesbian and gays to key positions throughout his administration.

On October 10, the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights became the first gay rights group in Massachusetts history to endorse the Republican ticket for governor. Other gay endorsements followed, including that of Bay Windows, a gay weekly. A blaze of publicity in the mainstream media covering the general gay crossover to Weld culminated

in a dramatic finish; Weld edged Silber by a mere 70,000 votes out of the two and a half million cast.

Unfortunately, many gay activists in Massachusetts were not so forward-thinking when it came to supporting one of their own, openly gay Republican Mike Duffy, who challenged entrenched Democratic State Representative Byron Rushing in the ninth Suffolk, a district including a huge percentage of Boston's gay population. Most of Boston's South End neighborhood, an area plagued by anti-gay violence and home to the highest concentration of PWAs in the Commonwealth, falls within the ninth Suffolk. Duffy's platform included raising police presence in the neighborhood and increasing the availability of housing for PWAs.

Whereas gay support for Weld demonstrated our greatest show of strength, gay opposition to Duffy cost our chance to elect one of the painfully few openly gay legislators in the nation. The band of lesbian and gay supporters who rushed to support Rushing engaged in that stale, shrill brand of knee-jerk Republican bashing that has been the norm in gay politics for 20 years. A concerted smear campaign playing on stereotypical notions about Republicans ("You belong to the party of Ronald Reagan. You're KILLING us!") succeeded in dividing what should have been Duffy's natural base. The result: Duffy lost by a mere 800 votes.

The general unwillingness to support Republicans keeps us perennially in thrall to a Democratic establishment that takes our votes for granted. When gay Republicans are silenced or ridiculed, and endorsements reserved for Democrats only, is it any wonder that the Republicans in Congress have failed to co-sponsor the National Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights bill? The colossal stupidity of the one-party strategy has had three disastrous effects: the nurturing of right-wing Republican homophobes, the weakening and silencing of pro-gay, progressive Republicans, and the allowance of lackluster, liberal Democrats to exploit us

at their will and ignore us at their convenience.

The emergence of Log Cabin Clubs, gay Republican groups in California, Texas, Illinois and Florida committed to supporting pro-gay Republicans and working for change within the party, may signal the end of the stagnant, politically correct tone of gay politics. In December, gay Republicans in Massachusetts formed a state chapter of the National Log Cabin Federation. Richard Tafel, Duffy's campaigning manager, was subsequently elected president of the National Log Cabin Federation at a Florida convention of the participating clubs. It is our hope that, under Tafel's leadership, Log Cabin Clubs will strengthen political support for the rights of gay people and challenge stereotypes of our community as uniformly left-leaning, anti-establishment, and out of the mainstream.

We believe that the allegiance between gay people and the Republican Party is a very natural expression of a shared desire to prevent government intrusion into the private lives of American citizens. This Republican tenet, often disregarded during the Reagan administration at the behest of the religious right, seems to be re-emerging under George Bush's leadership. Bush, in inviting members of the California Log Cabin Federation to the White House for the signing of the National Hate Crimes Bill, became the first president in our history to invite gay people to the White House because of, and not in spite of, their sexual orientation.

The Republican Party at its best has always been a champion of individual rights and liberties. Its roots are in the writings and in the spirit of abolition. If we, as gay people, can only cast aside foolish preconceptions of what it means to be a Republican, and give suitable Republican candidates our full support, we stand to gain an unprecedented degree of political power and influence.

David La Fontaine is Lobbying Director for the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

this weekend geared to women's health.

The conference is entitled "Keeping Women in Focus." Participants will have the opportunity to share information about and plan strategies to address the effects of HIV infection on women in many communities. The connections between HIV, gender, race, and class will be explored, as will their impact on the education, treatment and health care of women. We will also discuss the ways women address issues of ethics, sexual practice, reproductive choices, access to care and experimental treatment, research, care-giving, and day-to-day survival.

We have already received over 100 presentation proposals, and ten keynote speakers have been confirmed. We are now in the process of finalizing the structure and content of this important weekend geared toward women and their health care. With this next national conference we will maintain the high standards which FCHC and other Boston agencies have set with regard to national educational events about women's health and the HIV epidemic.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Rothschild
FCHC Women and AIDS Conference
Coordinator
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Barnicle

[GCN received a copy of this letter sent on Jan. 16 to Mike Barnicle of the Boston Globe.]

Dear Mr. Barnicle,

Your column today about the Thunder Head Club made you look like a real asshole. Who are you to call other people "disturbed" for their sexual likes? Why do you think stereotypical put-downs from the 1950's are clever?

Undoubtedly, a few of the club's patrons were "desperate"—desperate to get their rocks off, eager for pleasures elsewhere forbidden. I hope, though you realize that your column (which I understand is read by quite a few married men in the suburbs) will continue to cause untold desperation—people who had no idea that clubs like the Thunder Head existed will now be desperate to find out where the one nearest them is. Unfortunately, you didn't run a phone number. But, then, most people would be too chickenshit to act on their desires anyway—much easier to just report the queers to the cops.

Close to my house there is a huge building where hundreds gather several times a week to consume what is purported to be human blood and flesh. Their bizarre rituals are loud and sometimes spill out into the sidewalk; every parking place (legal and otherwise) is taken for blocks. Maybe you'd like to do a column on this superstitious cult and its high-level political connections that allow it to ignore the same rules that police eagerly enforce on the Thunder Head Club.

The *Globe's* editorial insistence that Barney Frank resign in disgrace, Alison Bass's crusade to infantilize therapy patients and imprison affectionate therapists, Beth Winship's puritanical confusion of sex and love, and now your smide homophobia make this reader wonder if anyone over at Morrissey Boulevard is getting laid.

Yours truly,
French Wall
Editor, *The Guide*
Boston, Mass.

For love and for life

Dear GCN:

The time has come for lesbians and gays to march on Washington for a third time to celebrate our community's growth and press for our civil rights. The Marches organized in 1979 and 1987 were by all accounts remarkably successful. Yet the goals espoused in the '70s and '80s are largely unrealized, and must be fought for in the '90s if we are ever to achieve them. Let's march again in Washington for the passage of federal legislation protecting us from discrimination, a true commitment to AIDS research, treatment and caregiving within the context of universal health care, and the right to marry, raise families and serve in the armed forces.

Let's dedicate ourselves to the goal of attracting one million marches to the Capital in the spring of 1992. A March in May would allow us to lobby effectively in Congress on legislation being heard in committees, and such a date would fall advantageously between most presidential primaries and the November election. Groups such as GLAAD, ACT UP and Queer Nation could assure us the comprehensive media coverage that was denied us in 1979 and 1987.

Most important, a March in 1992 would provide our community with an opportunity to network, increase membership of our

advocacy organizations, build alliances with groups representing women and people of color, and establish a national agenda for the lesbian and gay movement that will serve us well for the 1990s. The momentum created by a successful March could be harnessed to create lesbian/gay lobbies in every state. Perhaps 1992's National Coming Out Day (October 11) could be celebrated by staging gay rights rallies in every state Capital.

I urge all those interested in organizing a 1992 March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay Rights to contact me at the following address:

Drew Siegel
1420 Clayton St. #203
San Francisco, CA 94114
Tel: 415/522-8382

Let's meet in the spring of 1991 in a convenient Midwestern or Southern city that serves as an airline "hub" (Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, etc.). A group located in such a city could act as host, and would provide a meeting venue and perhaps arrange for inexpensive accommodations. I would finally urge that this initial meeting be as broad-based and inclusive of our community's diversity as possible.

To my sisters and brothers across America, I say, "Come out, Come out wherever you are, and come join the March!" I look forward to your response.

Warmly,
Drew Siegel
San Francisco, CA.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ISSUE

Would you like to contribute articles, artwork or ideas for our special Black History Month Issue to be published in February? Maybe you'd like to help coordinate this GCN tradition and help make this year's Black History Month Issue our very best ever.

Please call Chris Wittke in Features at (617) 426-4469 to discuss ideas, or drop us a line at GCN Features, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

Aspirin

Continued from page 1

therapy. In particular, he said, aspirin's wide availability and low cost could make it the most accessible drug yet in the fight against the epidemic. Assuming a dose of one aspirin every other day, Armistead said, "a whole year of aspirin therapy, about 180 pills, would cost—what? Three dollars? Less?" Given such figures, he added, "It's going to be the affordable therapy in Africa and Asia."

Armistead said that precisely because aspirin is already available and is so cheap, however, U.S. scientists have not pursued research on aspirin and HIV. "There was no economic incentive for scientists to 'discover' aspirin," he said. "Hoffmann-LaRoche is not going to make \$800 million on [it]."

Michael Slattery, research director at Los Angeles' Search Alliance, agreed with Armistead that aspirin has gone unexplored as a therapy because it has no promise in the marketplace. At least three years ago, Slattery said, a medical colleague of his "mentioned to me that aspirin increased interferon levels." With such information floating around in the midst of a major epidemic, Slattery said, he is shocked that the medical establishment "hasn't already looked into the benefits of aspirin therapy."

In the meantime, Slattery said, it is important for HIV-positive people to be cautious about incorporating aspirin into their treatments. In fact, he said, indiscriminate use of aspirin could have unhappy side effects for some people. For instance, aspirin is known to have a thinning effect on the blood. People with already low blood platelet counts—like those using the anti-HIV drug AZT—might be made more ill by taking aspirin regularly.

In addition, he said, "A lot of people labor under the assumption that if a little of a drug is good, then a lot is better." Unfortunately, Slattery added, "large amounts of aspirin could cause serious gastro-intestinal problems" in many people.

Despite those cautions, however, Slattery said he was pleased with Search Alliance's plan to begin an aspirin trial, hopefully within the next 30 days. "We've had an incredible response from physicians in the community," he said, remarking that more than 40 local doctors have offered to help with the trial. If all goes well, said Slattery, the study should generate important new treatment techniques—without creating false expectations about a miracle cure for the progression of HIV-related symptoms. "We need to separate the hope from the hype," he said.

—filed from Boston

Needle

Continued from page 3

community. "I respect Jon Parker, because he does something that actually helps," Betsi Pendry told *GCN*. Pendry, a staff member of Women Inc., a drug treatment program for women, said that as an individual, she believes that "Parker has moved out of the mainstream and this is part of the reason for the negative response he gets."

Pendry said that Parker "doesn't follow the 'business as usual' protocol that his opponents want. He says, 'I can do something about AIDS through needle use, and I'm gonna do it.' By doing this, he exposes how limited all the other organizations are."

Pendry added that "what Parker is doing politically in the street is what is important," and that drug treatment and AIDS issues essentially have to do with the social conditions of people of color. "The tragedy with the Brigade controversy," Pendry concluded, "is that groups who traditionally have been left out of the picture are now pitted against one another. Folks from both sides of the picture need to look at the larger issues to figure out how to work together to save this city's communities of color."

D.C.

Continued from page 1

Jackson also injected a plan for D.C. statehood, chronicling disparities between the District of Columbia, which cannot vote on the floors of the two houses in Congress, and states. He noted that:

• more people live in D.C. than in 5 states;
• residents pay more taxes than in 10 states;

• D.C. has sent more soldiers to the Gulf than have 32 states.

Many other "insular" U.S. citizens without congressional powers (nor the right to vote for U.S. President that D.C. residents enjoy),

it should be noted, also have been sent to the Gulf. Non-voting Virgin Islands Congressional representative Ron De Lugo has called the thousands of his people's conscription-without-representation "an even greater outrage."

NOW's Yard asked why the U.S. is defending an "apartheid, autocratic monarchy" in Saudi Arabia, which does not allow citizens to vote, and segregates women, who have no rights.

Yard pointed out that Congress, which okayed the war, is 95 percent white and male and noted that 61 percent of the women legislators voted against hostilities. "This war would never have gotten approved if women had parity with men in Congress," she said. "We must elect more women to help make the decisions that affect our lives."

Singer Toshi Reagon, daughter of Sweet Honey in the Rock founder and Smithsonian curator Bernice Reagon, suggested her own idea for a peaceful conversion of energy generated by anti-war activities. People should work with friends and neighbors, said Reagon, "to make our union as solid as a rock and acknowledge to ourselves that without equality and justice there will never be peace."

Press

Continued from page 3

statistics about the AIDS crisis.) In addition, Herman said, Spread the Truth may conduct a poster campaign on the T, Boston's subway system.

Herman said she was optimistic that the group will follow up on their plans. "There's a lot of energy in the group, a lot of it fueled by anger. People are very mad." On top of the frustration surrounding the war itself, she said, "we're not hearing about stuff that's going on. There's no information about any kind of opposition that would lead people to believe that opposition is legitimate."

WAR RESISTANCE INFORMATION

National:

**National Campaign for
Peace in the Middle East
(N.Y.) (212) 227-0221**

**White House Comment
Line (D.C.) (202) 456-1111
To register your opinions
about the war**

**Capitol Switchboard (D.C.)
(202) 224-2181
To contact congressional
representatives and
senators (or call their
local offices in your area)**

Boston area:

**Urgent Action Hotline
(617) 868-1867
For recorded info about
demonstrations,
teach-ins, etc.**

**American Friends Service
Committee (617) 661-6130
For the latest info about
demos and ongoing
events in the Boston area
and Eastern Mass., draft
counseling, etc.**

**Emergency Coalition for
Peace in the Middle East
(617) 661-8066**

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Beth Schine, LICSW.

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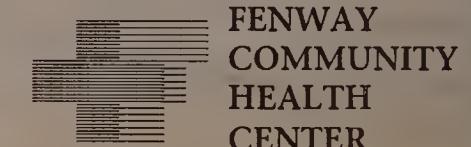
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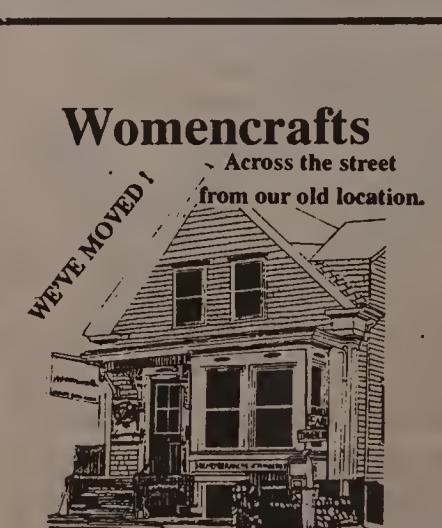


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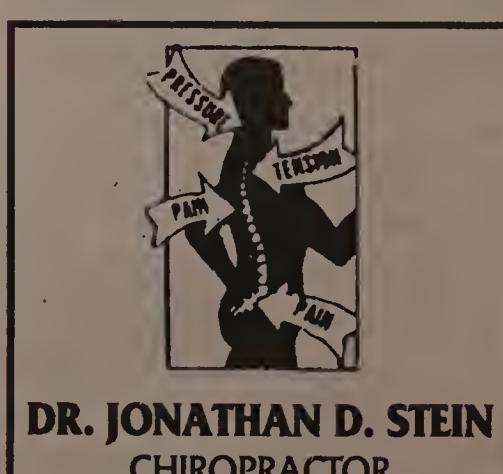


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Are we having a war, or what?

How war metaphors shape, elucidate and distort public thinking about foreign and social policy, AIDS and everyday life



Washington, DC, Jan. 26

By Michael Bronski

Although it is perfectly clear to the entire world that there is a war going on in the Persian Gulf you might not know it since the "war" word is many times not mentioned in mainstream reporting at all. This is especially odd given the large group of nations involved, the massive amounts of munitions being exploded, the drastic destruction to the environment and the possibly high numbers of casualties and deaths that make this conflict, for all intents and purposes, World War III.

Time and *Newsweek*, of course, were quick to print gripping, bold black and red "WAR" covers that practically jumped off newsstands and into the hands of passerby eager for information. Daily tabloids, like the *Boston Herald* and the *New York Post* were certainly willing to retire for a few days their favorite 18 point headlines like the recent, "13 Year old Girl Raped on Way Home from Sunday School," in order to scream "WAR!!" the

minute they could. But a quick perusal of the *New York Times* and other more "respectable" papers, shows that the more obvious bellicose language is missing from the headlines. The United States is not involved in something as drastic as a "war" in these stories but rather a "conflict," or a "situation in the Persian Gulf," or (and at least this world slouches towards conveying the seriousness of the situation) a "crisis in the Middle East."

And to be fair to the *Times*, there technically isn't a war going on. At least not a declared war, at least not officially declared by the United States. It is true that Congress authorized (by a very small margin; hardly a mandate) President "I'm no wimp" Bush to commence air attacks on Iraq but there was no technical declaration of war. This should come as no surprise because the word "war," as well as an endless list of war metaphors, are an intrinsic part of everyday English usage. The wheres, whens and why-fores of

Continued on page 9

No sounds of silence

Echoes of air raid sirens from the past are broadcast on the news

By Ayofemi Folayan

It's the sound of the air-raid sirens that get to me. That really mournful wail that doesn't let go in my head even when the physical waves of sound have long since died. The first time I ever heard them was when I was about eleven years old. My dad took me to see the movie *The Diary of Anne Frank*. I can still remember that group of people pulling that bookcase into place and sitting absolutely still in the attic as the troops stormed through the streets outside. That summer we went to Europe for the first time. I was standing on the streets of Paris, craning my neck back to see the top of the Eiffel Tower just as a police car went by. The siren sounded exactly like the air raid alarms in the movie. I burst into tears.

My Dad was upset and confused. "What's the matter?" He knelt down and put his arms around me as the sobs continued to shake my body. I looked at my Dad with real surprise splashed across my face, as I asked, "Don't you remember, in the movie?" He frowned as he attempted to place what I had asked in an intelligible context. "The movie! What movie, honey?" I wanted to explain, but I was overcome by the picture of that gaunt child's face that had hung in my inner gallery ever since I watched her traumatic tale in the film. I sobbed, still pained by the memory. Finally, I was able to compose myself enough to say, "You know, Daddy, the one about Germany with the little girl who lived in the attic behind the bookcase."

The next time I heard sirens like that was when I was living in Nigeria. It was just after the Biafran war, and all the local people were still jumpy. Any time a car backfired or a police siren howled, they would dive under desks or tables instinctively.

It wasn't something that anybody thought or talked about, it was just something that everybody did. I was the only person who seemed to have escaped the trauma. Even the other foreign nationals, like the clinic nurses who had been imported from England, propelled themselves under furniture at the merest provocation.

I remember one young boy named Adeyemi. He was profoundly deaf, so he couldn't hear the sirens that so aggravated everyone else. He would stand in the middle of the room and with intense effort and concentration peer into space, as if watching the sounds that eluded his ears. Then he would begin to cry and moan, his pain echoing uncannily the siren that could so frighten everyone else. Without warning, he would then dive under whichever table his mother had claimed.

When I was a child, I also lived in a war zone. No official hostilities has been declared, but there were specific acts of aggression. I was an invader, simply by virtue of the color of my skin, into enemy territory. They decided the only way to stop our invasion was to bomb our position. So, at the age of four, I awoke to the incredible splintering roar of the wall ripping away from the house from the force of the bomb. I know that there are sounds I shall never forget.

Now I hear sirens again. How ironic that the radio broadcast emanates from Tel Aviv, the homeland where Jews who survived the persecution of Hitler fled. I am sitting in the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, where I do volunteer work, here in Los Angeles, when the security guard comes and tells us that we have to evacuate the building. There has been a bomb threat against this ecumenical center

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Food, folks and fun

Boston-based *Community Servings* joins a growing number of organizations nationwide that deliver hot meals to PWAs

By Carol Trager

In New York, an organization called God's Love We Deliver serves the nutritional needs of people living with AIDS (PWAs). In Atlanta and San Francisco, it's project Open Hand. Yet, in Boston no "meal-on-wheels" program existed for PWAs until 1990 when local activists, religious organizations and human service providers came together to create *Community Servings*. Among the groups involved are the Boston AIDS Consortium, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition, AIDS Action Committee, the American Jewish Congress, Boston Living Center, the Department of Public Health and dozens of other agencies.

"It wasn't a question of need," explained Shelia Decter, New England Director of American Jewish Congress and one of the founding members of *Community Servings*. "Everyone acknowledged the need. PWAs have special nutritional requirements—and those who are homebound, even temporarily, often just don't have the strength to prepare meals. No federal funds are currently available to support delivered meals programs for PWAs, which makes it that much more difficult to address a truly escalating demand."

Community Servings delivers 250 meals per week to its clients and their families and caregivers. Meal recipients come from all areas of the city, more than two-thirds from Boston's communities of color.

"We're meeting our mission," said Executive Director Dede Ketover, "which is to provide nutritional support to PWAs in their homes, especially those who may lack critical support systems. Sometimes there are language barriers. Some of our clients simply want to assure their privacy. We respect their needs."

It's no surprise that the need for home-based nutritional support for PWAs is growing. According to Ketover, last spring 17 AIDS-related social service agencies were surveyed in hopes of identifying the number of potential *Community Servings* clients. The directors, HIV case managers and other staff from these agencies identified over 400 potential clients who would benefit from a home-delivered meal. The survey also indicated that by the end of 1991, over 1,000 PWAs would benefit from a home-delivered meal.

Funding this need has been another matter. Initially, *Community Servings* received grants from Project Bread, the AIDS ACTION Committee, Shearson Lehman, the Department of Public Health, the Boston Foundation, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and from contributions of gifts in-kind. According to Ketover, fundraising from private sources, such as foundations, has been very challenging. "Everyone knows resources are scarce. And we've always known that we would have to depend on the generosity of individuals and community groups," she said.

But even *Community Servings* was unprepared for the outpouring of support that has come from Boston's restaurant and hospitality industries. On Feb. 3, 1991, local restaurateurs and CITI, the Boston

nightclub, will sponsor the first broad-based fundraising event to benefit *Community Servings*. *Life Savior*, an evening of entertainment, dancing and tastings from restaurants in the city, is literally *Community Servings' debut*.

"Until now, we've had to manage our publicity carefully," explained Ketover. "We've obviously been concerned about responding to a deluge of requests for meals. So *Life Savior* is two things for us: a way to let Boston know we're here while we raise funds to serve the community."

Life Savior is actually Boston's third restaurant event to benefit AIDS services. The first was AID & Comfort, held last year at Boston Garden. The second, a Scandinavian Smorgasbord provided by Ann Robert of Boston's Maison Robert, was held about a month ago.

"AID and Comfort was the impetus for this effort," said Ben Strohecker of Harbor Sweets, one of the AID & Comfort founders. "Many of the same restaurants, caterers and other organizations are participating. But *Life Savior* is somewhat different. It's more community-based. It's a way to get people involved on a long-term basis."

Many people see the benefit as an ongoing project. Explained John Bellot, of the restaurant Icarus in the South End, "We agreed up front that we want an event that would draw lots of people. We've kept the price reasonable. We solicited the participation of restaurants and entertainers who will appeal to a big audience. We're going to make it possible for people to sign up as *Community Servings* volunteers, and some of us will start preparing and delivering meals to *Community Servings* clients. And we've agreed that *Life Savior* will be the first of many."

"The menu promise to be an eclectic food extravaganza," said Corby Kummer, food editor of *Atlantic Magazine* and a *Life Savior* planning committee member, who has been instrumental in every stage of this benefit. According to Kummer, each of the dozens of restaurants will have a table dedicated to its chef's creations. Restaurants as diverse as Icarus, Zuma, Upstairs at the Pudding, Michela's, Bnu, Legal Seafood, Cottonwood Cafe and many others will be represented.

Even the artwork for postcards and posters was donated. "Tim Foley of KK&M Advertising in Boston donated his talents while Paul Bosworth of Arlington Litho donated the printing. We are very blessed to have this community-based business support," said Ketover. Entertainment will be provided by Heavy Metal Horns, Lynne Jackson and Mike Palter.

Restaurants are frequently asked to participate in benefits "for lots of good causes," said David Waters. "But this one is a natural for us. It's food, nutrition—and service. It's special, too, to be on the ground floor of something so important and we know we've really making a difference." □

Life Savior, the benefit for *Community Servings*, will be held on Sunday, February 3, 6:00 p.m. at CITI. Tickets are \$25 and are available from TicketMaster or by calling (617) 330-9630.

strolls into the office with four large boxes of pizza. The smell of the food turns my stomach, as he cheerfully yells out, "Chow time! Come and get it." He stops abruptly as the sound of his voice bounces against the silences that loom large between us in the room. He peers into our faces and asks, "What's the matter?" in a tone that reminds me of my Dad asking the same question so many years ago. He sets the pizza onto his desk as the announcer repeats the information about Scud missile attacks on Tel Aviv.

I stand up and pull my jacket on. Henry reaches out and turns off the radio. "You're all welcome to come over to my place," he says, still trying to be the congenial host at a party where someone has died in the bathroom. "We have to do something with all this pizza," he continued.

I look down at Henry's shiny black patent leather shoes. He is always so proud of how shiny those shoes are. They are military issue, the same ones soldiers wear with their dress uniforms. Those soldiers are in Saudi Arabia at this very moment, waiting for the word to move against Iraq, while our planes drop bombs on Baghdad. □

Our friend and co-worker, Henry, had been getting our dinner at the Numero Uno pizza parlor across the street. Unaware of the latest events of the radio or in the building, he



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Sounds

Continued from page 7

where Iranian students are learning English in a classroom on the first floor. In the background, the reporter talks about the attack from inside a "sealed room," where each Israeli household has prepared against the possibility of chemical poisoning by Iraqi warheads. The sirens howl in their diatonic pulse, each tone lasting about half a second.

I look across the room at my friend Sharon, who spent two years on a kibbutz in Israel. Her eyes puff and swell with the silent tears, their salt stings her bruised flesh. Without any awareness, Sharon keeps randomly brushing an invisible hair from her forehead, while she grips the edge of her bottom lip between her teeth. A feeling that is a mixture between rage and grief wells up inside me as I put my arm around her shoulder in what feels like an empty gesture of comfort.

Our friend and co-worker, Henry, had been getting our dinner at the Numero Uno pizza parlor across the street. Unaware of the latest events of the radio or in the building, he

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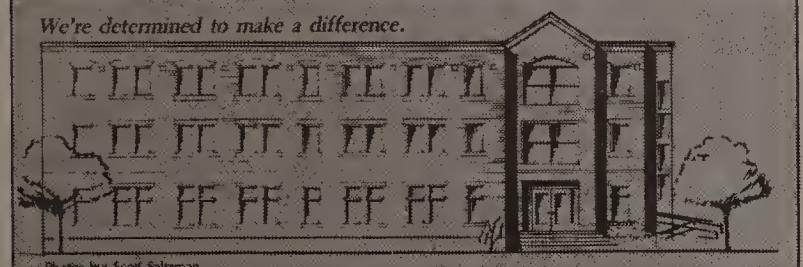
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War

Continued from page 7

how they are actually used is quite circumscribed. Most everyone agreed on World War I and World War II—they were "wars" and were called so when they were happening. And while the "Korean War" was certainly labeled as such (and continues to be thought of in the popular imagination as a war), according to official State Department policy it was actually a "police action," not a war at all. This selective labeling is even more interesting when you consider Viet Nam.

Like the Korean War, and the War in the Persian Gulf, Viet Nam was never officially declared a war by the U.S. While it was happening it was called "the Viet Nam War" or "The war in Viet Nam." But as time lapsed, popular sentiment turned against the blatant war-mongering and patriotic sloganizing (especially when huge numbers of veterans returned and attempted to fit back into U.S. society). The popular language used to describe the war changed. What should have been called "the war against Viet Nam" was called "the war in Viet Nam" in the mid-'70s, by the early '80s (when it was clear that it was a complete national policy fiasco) it was being called "the Viet Nam conflict" and today, (when most people would rather forget that it ever happened) it is not uncommon to hear the war referred to as "the Viet Nam experience," which makes it sound like some slightly exotic, Easternized Club Med trip.

The use of military metaphors not only rivals that of disease metaphors in English, but many times the two become one and the same. They are, one might say, both entrenched and endemic, in the language. We draw "battlelines" when we are having a fight with someone; we see ourselves on the "frontlines", or the "vanguard" of an issue; cancer "invades" the body; a dying person "surrenders" to a disease; even "triage"—the system of evaluating patients in a hospital setting—was originally used on the battlefields of the Crimea.

The use of the word "war" and its attendant metaphors, or those of illness and disease, are not random. They are used, either consciously or unconsciously, for specific effect and purpose. They are used not so much as descriptions, but rather to convey additional moral, imaginative or judgmental information. The ubiquitous "war between the sexes" is, in fact, a cover-up of the fact that men, generally, have social power over women. Under the administration of Lyndon Johnson (which now seems rather liberal) a "war on poverty" was declared in an attempt to raise the standard of living for U.S. citizens whose income fell below the (already very minimal) federal standards of living. Under the Nixon and Reagan administrations, the deserving poor became criminal perpetrators and the "war on poverty" became, essentially, "the war on drugs" complete with—in an odd, post-Cold War borrowing—a "drug czar."

In all of these cases the word "war" is used to actually define a social situation to the advantage of whoever is doing the naming. A "war on poverty" makes the federal government look as though it is helping "the lower classes"; the "war on drugs" is an attempt to convince the upper and middle classes (none of whom, of course, do drugs) that the more rambunctious "lower" (i.e. criminal) classes will be kept in their place and punished. When used by the U.S. government on issues of social policy, [war] is almost always used to put the other—either by people or abstract ideas—on the defensive. A declaration of war is a sign of dedication and a determination to take drastic action. In simple terms, a declaration of war is a declaration of moral righteousness and certainty; in the eyes of those who declare them, all wars are "good wars."

This is, of course, true of the War in the Gulf (or, if one wanted to be a little more exact, The War against Iraq) but in a topsy-turvy Alice-In-Blunderland reversal, actual wars (although, undeclared) are labeled something else and the traditional military designations are used to designate social policy stances.

Listening to the constant barrage of news reports relating bombings, air raids, casualties and invasions, it is impossible to not be reminded of how similar the language used to describe war is also used to describe AIDS. Susan Sontag, in both *Illness as Metaphor* and *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, discussed in detail the role of military metaphor in mystifying and understanding health and disease. But the last weeks have pointed out, again and again, how deeply rooted, and entwined in both culture and language these dual concepts are.

The conceptualization of AIDS as a war is

not a new idea. Military metaphors have always existed in the discussions of health and illness and AIDS is no different. Taking physical well being to be the criterion—a presumption, surely—it is understandable that we would come to view anything that might weaken or change that condition as an "enemy" of health. And the presence of an "enemy" means that a war-like situation is possible.

The metaphor of war is an oddly comforting one and in Western culture it seems almost a reflex response; one that occurs with little thought. In his book on the immune system, *The Body at War*, Dr. John M. Dwyer explicitly details in military terms how the body's defenses work. In five chapters with titles like "The War and the Warriors," "The Defeat of the Warriors," and "Where Are the Generals?," he maps out a battle plan of how the human body fights the enemy of disease.

The conceptualization of the body-as-battlefield is however, not without problems. Health, in our culture, is not a neutral condition—there are a whole separate set of moral, emotional and sexual judgements that are seen as directly related to physical well being—and by militarizing the physical self, we stand the risk of losing any number of social or psychological wars.

In his book *Mortal Embrace: Living with AIDS*, Egyptian writer Emmanuel Druike takes the idea of the military metaphor and AIDS to an extreme. People who die of AIDS are "killed in action"; PWAs are "soldiers on the front lines"; when he enters a gay bar now, he feels "like a soldier on leave"; a body racked by PCP is a "bombed out ruin"; sex in the late '70s occurs in "the pre-war period"; "the saber cuts of kaposi's sarcoma" leaves scars on a PWA's face; discovering that you are HIV positive leaves you "shell shocked," every page is packed with the language of war and battle.

It is easy to see how, in a homophobic culture in which gayness and death are already linked, AIDS feels like a war, both personally and socially. But as writer John Preston has said: "I have a problem thinking of AIDS as a war because the fact is that eventually everyone dies—of something—and so to frame the discussion, one's life, in those terms is to always lose the war. There is no way that you can win. But as a gay man in my 40s who has seen many of my contemporaries die, I do feel as though I am in the middle of a war and that gay male life is sometimes a battle field."

It is difficult not to conceptualize the social reality of AIDS as a war. After finishing with war news last Friday, the broadcaster on Boston's Public Television station, WGBH, announced that the Centers for Disease Control released figures showing that 100,000 people had died of AIDS in the past decade. (This number is probably grossly underestimated given the amount of AIDS-related deaths that go unreported). Juxtaposed with the reports of war related fatalities (also grossly underreported by both sides), such information cannot help but allow viewers to reconfirm metaphorical connections between war and AIDS. And give the coexistent realities of the epidemic and the War Against Iraq, it isn't a great leap to link those two specific realities together. The endless reporting of the allegedly meager fatalities connected with the war compared the simple news item approach to the milestone of 100,000 dead of AIDS calls into question the priorities of social and foreign policy as well as news reporting. Part of the reason the members of ACT Up/New York decided to do their Jan. 23 political actions' [see GCN, Jan. 28-Feb 3, 1991]—which they called the Day of Desperation—was to highlight the fact that news coverage of the War Against Iraq was essentially blotting out all attention on AIDS.

This has to be, to some degree, a conscious intention of the President's war policy. It is not just the AIDS epidemic that Washington would like the public to forget, but the Savings & Loan scandal (in which first son Neil Bush is a prime suspect), the collapse of the banking system, the need for more (read-my-lips) taxes, the oncoming recession/depression, and the complete lack of any distinctive social or foreign policy are all subjects that the President and his advisors would like us to forget. "War can be a diversion for a bad ruler," wrote Roman historian Tacitus, and this certainly goes a long way in explaining this one.

There are also other conditions, at least in the minds of activists, link the War Against Iraq and AIDS together. By far the primary one is how the cost of the war will impact on not only money for AIDS care and research but on social and health programs in general. Current estimates claim that the War Against Iraq is costing a half billion a day. It takes two Patriot missiles, at a cost of \$1.2 million,

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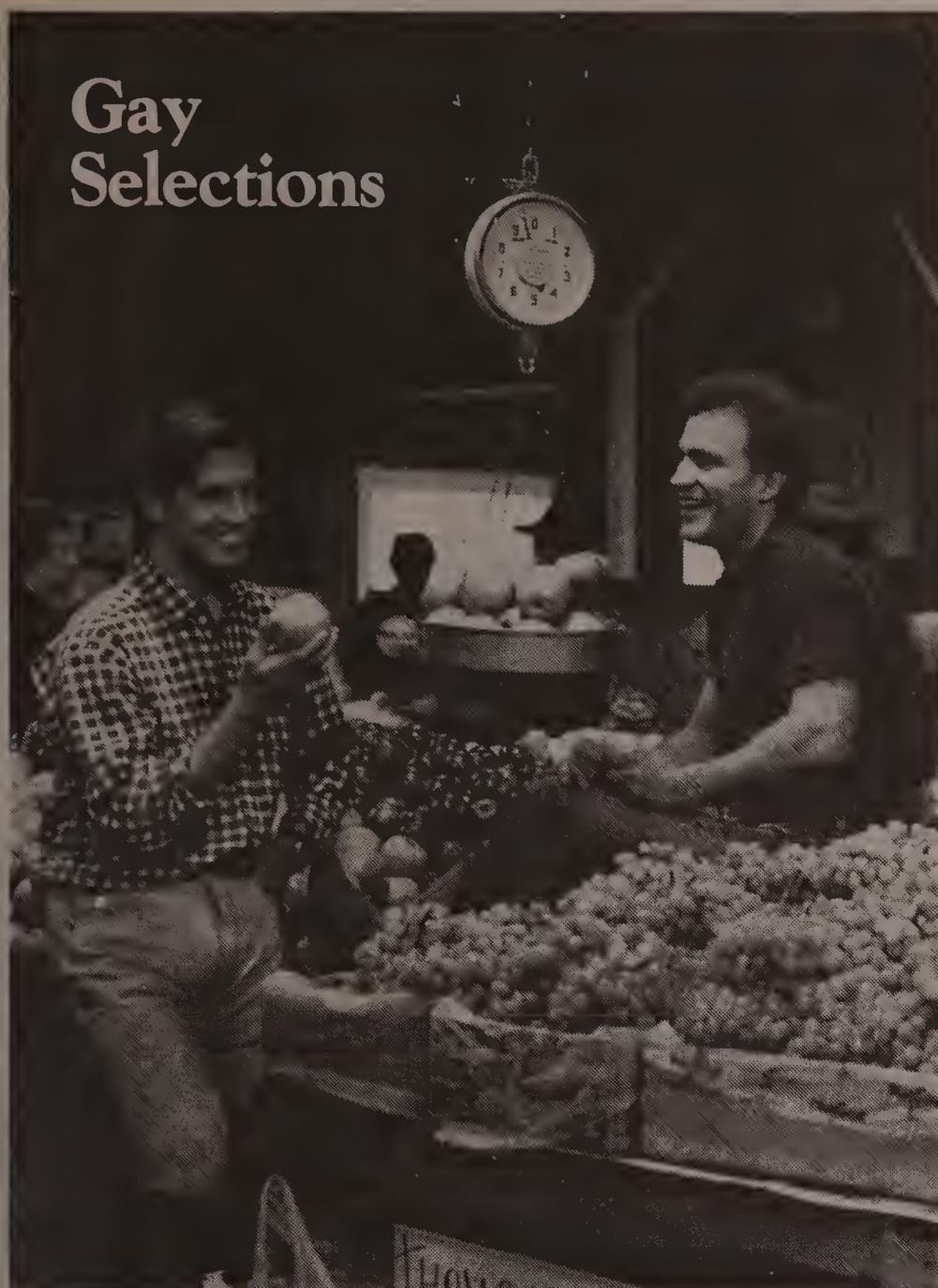
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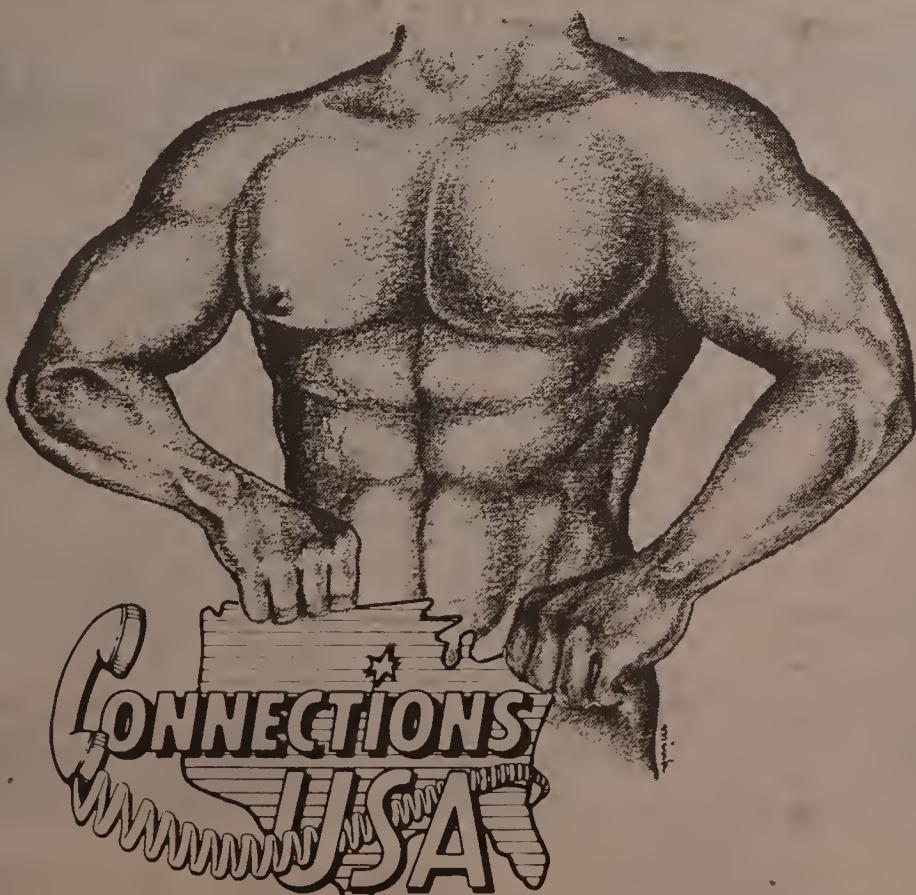
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Washington, D.C. Jan. 26

This is the second in a series of articles by Michael Bronski examining the sexual and political implications of the militarization of language.

Sense

Continued from back page

Old Believers were all paraded onto the stage wearing silly hats, and renouncing their apostasy.

Making Sense of the Sixties was confused and ambivalent on the legacy of the decade. Of all the forces unleashed, the ecology movement alone was hailed in unequivocal terms. As regards many other issues, people were not quite so sure. African-Americans speculated on the sense of community and power that was exchanged for desegregated schools. One-time activists lamented losing the support of a working-class that was caught between the African-American uprising and the assault by the children of the educated classes.

Not surprisingly, it was the feminists and the one openly gay man interviewed who gave the most positive assessments of the era's accomplishments and legacy. The woman who affirmed triumphantly that "the personal is the political," had more than a little of Periclean Athens about her, proving that the seeds of the '60s were planted in a far deeper and richer historical strata than is now generally conceded.

Revitalized in the '80s, both the gay and the feminist movements have inherited a vision of social, legal and political change that is as radical and threatening to the status quo as any bugbear of the '60s. Both movements, growing steadily stronger and more confident, will come to full flower in the years ahead.

Although there was plenty of period footage in *Making Sense of the Sixties*, it was impossible to recreate the feeling of what life was like in the vortex. Interestingly, a Gay Pride march and rally is really the best place to get a sense of the atmosphere of the '60s, when a large minority of the population was similarly united in the face of hatred, fear, and physical assault because of its lifestyle. At such a rally it is possible to hear familiar arguments between the assimilationists and the radicals who advocate forming vigilante groups to stop the increasing number of gaybashes, for instance.

Just as the Civil Rights Movement and the Viet Nam War exposed the racism and militarism of American society, the AIDS epidemic has uncovered the ugly marrow of bigotry, homophobia and profiteering that lies beneath the bone not only of conservative but also of polite "liberal" society.

The events surrounding the AIDS epidemic opened the eyes of many of us, radicalizing large numbers all over again. The frustration with the political process that in the '60s led to the formation of resistance groups finds an echo in today's increasingly confrontational tactics. From the civil disobedience of ACT UP to the direct action of the recently formed Queer Nation groups (the very name a tribute to the '60s ideal), gay men and lesbians are drawing strength from what was done in that time. Constant confrontation may be the only way to wear down the defenses of a society still in the grips of sexual deception and hypocrisy, where there is still no universal health care, where a primitive "morality" is more important than privacy rights, where cars and football scores are more important than social issues, and where the only thing of less value than a woman is a homosexual.

The metaphors of war and the military are so intrinsic to Western culture that it is impossible to completely avoid them. But it is possible to understand how they function. It is a matter of understanding that the "war between the sexes" is actually about women struggling for freedom, and that a "war on drugs" is more about social control of the inner city than helping people lead sane and healthy lives. When we think about the war against Iraq it is important to remember that the "mid-east crisis" is really an undeclared war that entails the repeated, incessant bombing of a city. It is also important to recognize that when broadcasters refer, as Dan Rather did the other day, to "Saddam Hussein's war against the United States" it is a gross distortion of reality.

It is also important to remember that being HIV positive, or having ARC or AIDS related illnesses, does not mean that our bodies are "at war" or a "battlefield." And while losing enormous numbers of friends may make us feel as though we are in the middle of a war, we should never lose sight of reality no matter how enticing the metaphor might be. It is important to remember that in U.S. culture, gay and lesbian people are still "the enemy" and when war metaphors are so easily used, they are eventually going to be used against us.

We do not look back at our wounds only when they have healed. Sometimes we look back when they have reopened. □

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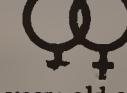
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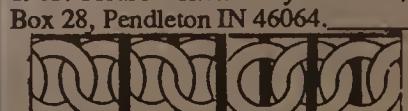
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4 MONDAY

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Hanover, NH ♦ Panelmaking workshops for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. First and third Mondays each month. Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. 7 p.m. Info: Thom (603) 632-4145.
Worcester ♦ Comm. on G/L/B Issues, Natl. Ass'n of Social Workers: Lesbians Doing Feminist Private Practice in Worcester Area. Info and carpools: Meryl 964-3448.
Boston ♦ Queer Nation / Boston. Community Church of Boston, Copley Square above Back Bay Bistro. 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays each month. Info: 577-8123.
Cambridge ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Introductory Mtg. 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St.

5 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ "The Generations and Genders Discuss Gay Militancy." G/L militancy from a generational perspective. Reception 6 p.m. Discussion 7 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.
Framingham ♦ Framingham G/L Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.
Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: Male Spouses of Gay Fathers. 8 to 10 p.m. Lindemann Ctr., 25 Staniford St., Boston Rm. (Plaza Lvl.). 742-7897.
Cambridge ♦ "Out of Bounds: A Lesbian Journey." Multimedia presentation. 8 p.m. Radcliffe Coll. Agassiz Hs. Theater, 10 Garden St. ASL interpreted; wheelchair accessible. Reception follows. 495-9199.
Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Book Group Discusses Gilda Radner's "It's Always Something." DOB. 8 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

6 WEDNESDAY

Cambridge ♦ "Visible For a Change: Contemporary Lesbian Artists USA." Slide-show installation. Radcliffe Coll. Lyman Common Rm., Radcliffe Yd., 10 Garden St. 2/6 through 3/3, noon to 10 p.m. every day. 495-9199.
Boston ♦ Names Project / Boston General Mtg. 7 p.m. Piemonte Room, City Hall (use Congress Street entrance). 451-9003.
Somerville ♦ B/L/G Rights Activists of Somerville (BLGRAS) Monthly Meeting. First Wednesday each month. 7 p.m. Info: 666-9288 or 628-9650.
Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth. Open to G/L/B youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7 p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.
Cambridge ♦ Lesbians Practice Swing Dancing. DOB. 8 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

7 THURSDAY

Cambridge ♦ Drop in at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.
Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance. First and third Thursdays each month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30 p.m. (413) 527-5310.

8 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ AIDS Mastery Workshop. Northern Lights Alternatives. 423-3035.
Boston ♦ John Gilgun reads from "Music I Never Dreamed Of," a novel of a young man coming out in Boston in the '50's. Amethyst Press. 7 p.m. Glad Day Bookshop, 673 Boylston, 2nd fl. 267-3010.
Dorchester ♦ Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers Valentine's Mtg. 7 p.m. Carol 483-3685.
Boston ♦ Game Night. Board and parlor games every other Friday, 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.
Medford ♦ "Significant Others: Dances for Family, Friends, and Lovers." An evening of dances. Tufts U. Cousins Dance Space, College Ave. \$11. Info and reservations: 350-6184.
Boston ♦ Friday Night at the Movies: "Casablanca." 8:05 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., rm. 203. \$2.

9 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ AIDS Mastery Workshop. Northern Lights Alternatives. 423-3035.
Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well Series: "Massage for Women." 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 338 Newbury St., Rm. 203. \$5. Register 267-0900.
Provincetown ♦ P'town Positive / PWA Coalition Singles Tea. Second Saturday each month. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's of the Harbor.
Boston ♦ John Gilgun Reads. See 2/8. 2 p.m. B.U. L/G. Org. 353-9808.
Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Singles' Night. DOB. 7 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.
Jamaica Plain ♦ L/G Contra/Square Dancing. Smoke / drug free. 8 to 11 p.m.; beginners' lessons 7:30 p.m. First Church of J.P., corner Centre and Eliot Sts. \$5. Info and directions: Janet 522-2216, Phil 729-9206, or Scott 536-2014.
Cambridge ♦ Tricia Langlois. 9 p.m. Christopher's, 1920 Mass. Ave., Porter Sq. \$6. 876-9180.

10 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ AIDS Mastery Workshop. Northern Lights Alternatives. 423-3035.
Boston ♦ Dykes' Dialogue: Living Arrangements. 4 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info 247-2927.

11 MONDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB Monthly Business Mtg. 8 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

12 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Professional Ass'n. 6 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. buffet dinner. Tremont Hs., Tremont St. (across from Wang Ctr.). \$15.
Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well Series: "An Intro. to Meditation." 6 to 8 p.m. 338 Newbury St., Rm. 203. 267-0900.
Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black L/Gs. Second Tuesday each month. Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. (Mass. Ave. & Columbus). 6:30 p.m. Info: David 424-6989.
Boston ♦ Lincoln's Birthday Carnival. 7 p.m. 791 Tremont St. \$25 donation. 266-7754.

Arlington ♦ Parents and Friends of L/G's. Second Tuesday each month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508) 562-5807.

13 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ Mass. G/L Political Caucus Monthly Membership Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Arlington Street Church (use the Boylston St. entrance).

Boston ♦ Time for Reflection and Prayer During Lent. MCC. 7 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 427-0420.

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbians 35+ discuss "Romance?!!" DOB. 8 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

14 THURSDAY

Dorchester ♦ Dorchester GALA Monthly Bizziness Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Info: Hotline 825-3737 or Barry 288-1847.

Dorchester ♦ G/L Concerns Committee of SEIU Local

509. Second Thursday each month. Union office, 5 Howard Johnson Plaza. 6:30 p.m. Info: 282-2509.

Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well HIV Medical Forum: "AZT and Beyond." 7 to 9 p.m. BLC, 140 Clarendon St., 7th flr. Moderated by LeBaron Moseby, CRI-NE.

Cambridge ♦ DOB Coffee Night and Valentine Party. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Bring \$1 and food to share (no reheating facil.). 661-3633.

Boston ♦ GLAAD: Boston Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. General meeting second Thursday each month. The Center rm. 202, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 492-4639.

15 FRIDAY

Cambridge ♦ Open Discussion for Lesbians. DOB. 8 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Boston ♦ Friday Night at the Movies: "West Side Story." 8:05 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., rm. 203. \$2.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached workouts for swimmers of all abilities. Noon at Boston City Hosp. swimming pool. Info: Ed 767-0449.

Boston ♦ BAGLY Drop-In Center. (BAGLY = Boston Alliance of G/L Youth.) St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. Info: (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Somerville ♦ Boston Strikers G/L Indoor Soccer. Through 3/24/91. Novice pgm. 4 p.m. Full club scrimmage 5 p.m. Winter Hill School. \$5 gym fee. Info: Jeffry 876-7612.

Boston ♦ ALATEEN Group open to l/g/b youth 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 629-2518 or Frank 666-8912.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. Lesbians and gay men. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Chiltern Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWAs and friends. About 100 people with AIDS and their friends meet every Monday at AIDS Action Committee for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Comm. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. Info: 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ "We the People" -- with feminist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9 a.m. Tufts U. radio.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project.

Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 266-0628.

Cambridge TV ♦ PrideTime -- Boston G/L TV, with Jim Voltz. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Informal Meeting with Mayor Flynn's liaison to the gay community. Ann Sanders will be available 2 to 6 p.m. each Wednesday. No appointment necessary, but Ms. Sanders can be reached at 725-3485.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 p.m. 523-7363 or 1-800-42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. Info: (413) 788-7459

Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee -- for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th flr. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Boston ♦ The Coalition for L/G Civil Rights. Meets every Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 828-3039.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. Info: (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 266-1129.

Making Sense of the Sixties.
A Public Broadcasting Service
miniseries. Shown the week of
Jan. 21-25, with regular
rebroadcasts over most PBS
stations.

Reviewed by Owen Shows

Wordsworth wrote, "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven." Except during the moments when it was very hell. From the beginning of PBS' recent six-hour special, *Making Sense of the Sixties*, it was clear that this was going to be The Saga of the Baby Boomers. Although an hour-long segment of the program was dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement, this was simply to set the scene for the story of the radicalization and alienation of white suburban youth, many of whom lifted their ideals and tactics for social change from the Southern freedom marches in which they participated. The seeds of this youth rebellion, the program told us, were sown in the little 1950s suburban boxes that had sprung up after World War II. Here nuclear families were brainwashed by televised parables that extolled the virtues of conformity and obedience, virtues that would soon be reviled as vices.

The problem with this simplistic analysis is that it makes no sense when applied to the many countries that also experienced a youth revolt but that did not have either an American-style suburbia or a comparable television culture. *Making Sense of the Sixties* used the typical Americana-centric documentary style that avoided a world or historical context for events. An eighth-grade audience might be forgiven for believing that the turmoil of the '60s was a national rather than worldwide phenomenon. But in this series, other countries were mentioned only insofar as they disturbed the insular course of events in the United States, i.e., Viet Nam and the USSR. The whole world was watching events in this country, but it was also watching events unfolding everywhere else. In fact, it was the increasingly sophisticated international communications systems of the 1960s that in no small way fanned the flames of political unrest and encouraged the worldwide cross-cultural explosion.

Similarly myopic was the segment devoted

to the culture of the times. This consisted almost exclusively of a garbled account of the development of rock music as a sexual and political threat. The influential attack of Pop Art on consumer society was completely ignored, and contemporary writers were left unmentioned. For a decade that has determined so much of today's postmodern aesthetic, these were glaring omissions.

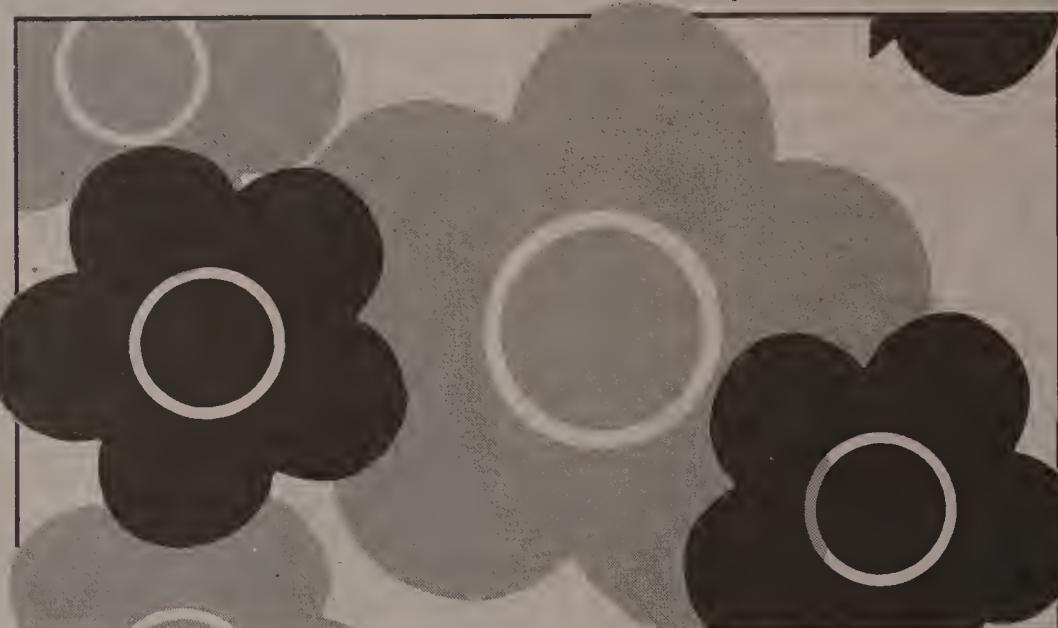
Some credit was given to the beatniks for molding contemporary taste, although the beatniks themselves were simply the first stage of the devolution of bohemia from the avant-garde to the masses. One of the most interesting things about the '60s is the way this happened: the bohemian lifestyle, which had existed in Western societies since the early nineteenth century, suddenly ceased to be the domain of an artistic minority and developed into a mass "counterculture" bent on shocking the bourgeoisie.

This counterculture arrived ready-made,

HINDSIGHTS

Start making sense

The much ballyhooed PBS series, *Making Sense of the Sixties*, barely scratches the surface of a tumultuous decade that still reverberates today



with its sex, its long hair and eccentricities, the product of two centuries of slow maturation in Parnassian garrets. The opportunity for examining this historical phenomenon was lost on the producers of *Making Sense of the Sixties*, as images of rock festivals and tragedies were machine-gunned at the viewer, presumably to recreate a sense of the general confusion (as opposed to the cultural excitement) of the period.

In the program's analysis of the sexual revolution, the narrative was bedeviled by socio-Freudian mysticism: The '60s were a great big tantrum thrown by sexually repressed brats whose eroticized behavior developed into mass hysteria. The show seemed to suggest that in the wake of this chaos of free love and freedom of choice, the divorce rate doubled and the institution of marriage got it in the kisser. If marriage was indeed so fragile an institution, perhaps it deserved to be destroyed, or at least replaced

by something else (like the domestic partnership status that many cities are now conferring on gay male, lesbian and unmarried heterosexual couples).

The strength of any force can be measured in the violence of the reaction it occasions. *Making Sense of the Sixties* revealed the causal link between the turmoil of the '60s and the subsequent almost-continuous domination of the White House by conservatives. The longevity and tenacity of their grip over public life and thought suggests that fear of what the '60s unleashed persists as the motivating force behind conservative power. The '60s are still out there lurking, exerting a mysterious influence over all our lives. The conservative spokesman who gloated over how the protesters had "given us the country," provided a chilling reminder of how blithely we sailed into their arms, while the tenor of *Making Sense of the Sixties* itself was a testimony to how efficiently Reagan's revolution has moved public opinion to the right, where all discourse is framed in conservative terms.

In the past decade, conservatives have shifted the blame for the '60s upheaval from the real evil of the institutions being attacked (like the military-industrial complex, which wasn't even mentioned during the program), onto the now-yuppie liberals who were once the attackers. The interviewees exposed the Reagan-inspired guilt felt by the baby-boom generation for its "youthful exuberance," extracting confessions that turned the last hour of *Making Sense of the Sixties* into something resembling a show trial in Beijing.

After the six hours of evidence, the accused generation confessed its crimes of abandon, many voicing remorse for those "crazy times," while others remained pathetically defiant, unconvincingly citing the "higher values" they were now able to bring to their social interactions in the workplace. Here for all to see were the sage victims of incorrect thinking and consuming Belief, contrite and penitent, happily embracing the work ethic. Here were the people who had abandoned their social activism in pursuit of a career, wallowing in the very selfishness and self-centeredness they had once expunged. This was a kind of weird morality play, in which the Devils and

Continued on page 11.

Join us ► For the largest

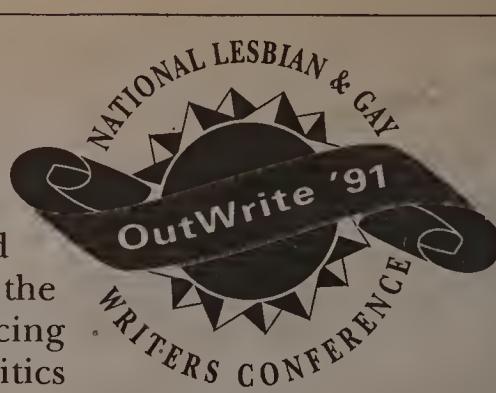
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For more information ► About OutWrite '91 call us at 415-626-3334. OutWrite is sponsored by OUT/LOOK National Lesbian & Gay Quarterly.



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